(b) The administrative sanction by the district authority does not depend on the availability of funds. The District Authority can sanction works up to the entitlement of the MP for that year without physical availability of funds.

(c) and (d) As per para 3.12 of the Guidelines, on receipt of the recommendation from the MP, the District Authority should verify the eligibility and technical feasibility of each recommended work. All such eligible works should be sanctioned within 45 days from the date of receipt of recommendation. If a recommended work is not eligible or not feasible, the District Authority shall intimate the same with reasons to the MP concerned, the Government of India and State/UT Government. In case of complaints received by the Ministry on non-compliance of MPLADS guidelines, the district authority is directed to take necessary action.

Utilisation of MPLAD Funds

1003. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to raise the MPLAD funds within this financial year; and

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has conducted any survey how and in what manner the funds under this scheme had been spent during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The proposal to enhance the quantum of MPLADS funds was sent to the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission for their approval. The Planning Commission has informed that they would appraise the project only after a judgement is delivered by the Supreme Court in this regard and also when there is clarity on availability of additional funds.

(b) The Ministry has taken the initiative for physical monitoring of sample works executed under the Scheme by NABARD Consultancy Services (NABCONS), an independent agency. The MPLADS funds have been used for creation of durable community assets of national priorities viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc.

Funds for voluntary organisations

†1004. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of voluntary organizations that were not funded during 2007-08 which were funded earlier;

(b) how many of them had not applied;

(c) the main reasons for not funding those who had applied;

(d) whether they were informed of the reasons; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) Total 86 organizations were not funded during the year 2007-08 which were funded earlier.

(b) to (e) As per the provisions of the schemes of the Ministry for grant in aid, funds to voluntary organizations are released only to those who send complete proposals and have been recommended by the Multi Disciplinary State Level Committee, subject to availability of funds. The scheme has no provision for receiving applications directly from the organizations. As per this procedure, proposals recommended by State Level Committees, but found to be incomplete were informed.

ST status to communities in Assam

1005. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present status of the proposal received from the Assam Government to provide ST status to six communities of the State, who are demanding the same for several years; and

(b) the present status of these communities namely Konch Rajbonshi, Tai Ahom, Moran, Motok, Tiwa and Tea Tribes in the State regarding recognition as Scheduled Tribe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has processed the proposal of the State Government of Assam for inclusion of Adivasi Tea Tribes, Ahoms, Mattaks, Morans, Koch Rajbangshi & Chutias in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Assam as per modalities approved by the Government of India on 15/06/1999 for determining the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes' lists. Further justification from State Government of Assam in support of their proposal for inclusion of above six communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Assam has not been received. There in no proposal for inclusion of "Tiwa" in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Assam.

Land to forest dwellers

1006. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of the Central Act passed by U.P.A. Government for granting land pattas to forest dwellers in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that implementation by these State Governments is far from satisfactory; and

(c) what action is proposed by the Central Government to help the tribal population?